

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a transition of a graphical user interface (GUI) element displaying information on a computer display, wherein:

the GUI element transitions between ~~[[a]] first graphical user interface (GUI)~~ GUI element information associated with a first application running on a computer and ~~a corresponding,~~ second GUI element information associated with a second application running on the computer,

the first application ~~being~~ is displayed on ~~[[a]] the~~ computer display in a first window, and

the second application is displayed on the computer display in a second window,

the method comprising the steps of:

detecting, when the first application is active, a user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

removing ~~from the computer display~~ the first GUI element information from the GUI element ~~associated with the first application~~ and replacing the first GUI element information displayed by the GUI element with the ~~corresponding,~~ second GUI element ~~associated with the second application~~ information; and

in response to detecting the user selection of the second window, providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information displayed by the GUI element with the second GUI element information by rendering animation graphics to

animate a transition between the display of the first GUI element information and second ~~GUI elements~~ element information.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the user selection comprises detecting the user clicking on the second window.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting further comprises detecting, when the first application is active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second application to make the second application active.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting further comprises detecting, when the first application is active and the second application is open, the quitting of the first application to make the second application active.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise rotation animation graphics.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise scrolling animation graphics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise three-dimensional animation graphics.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~providing a transition~~ transitioning a GUI element displaying information on a computer display between [[a]] first graphical user interface (GUI) element information associated with a first application running on a computer and ~~a corresponding~~, second GUI element information associated with a second application running on the computer, wherein the first application ~~being~~ is displayed on [[a]] the computer display in a first window and the second application is displayed on the computer display in a second window,

the system comprising:

means for detecting, when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

means for removing the first GUI element information ~~associated with the first application~~ that is displayed by the GUI element on the computer display and

replacing the first GUI element information with the ~~corresponding~~, second GUI element ~~associated with the second application~~ information; and

means responsive to detecting the user selection of the second window for providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information with the second GUI element information by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first GUI element information and second GUI ~~elements~~ element information.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for detecting the user selection is configured to detect the user clicking on the second window.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for detecting the user selection is configured to detect, when the first application is active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second application to make the second application active or, when the first application is active and the second application is open, the quitting of the first application to make the second application active.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render rotation animation graphics.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render scrolling animation graphics.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render three-dimensional animation graphics.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three-dimensional animation graphics by utilizing gray scales.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three dimensional animation graphics utilizing gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to ~~provide a transition a~~ GUI element displaying information computer display computer display between ~~[[a]]~~ first graphical user interface (GUI) element information, which is associated with a first application running on the computer, and ~~a corresponding~~, second GUI element information, which is associated with a second application running on the computer,

wherein the first application ~~being~~ is displayed on ~~[[a]]~~ the computer display in a first window and the second application is displayed on the computer display in a second window,

~~wherein~~ the program ~~comprises~~ comprising the following steps:

detecting, when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

removing from the computer display the first GUI element information ~~displayed by the GUI element associated with the first application~~ and replacing the first GUI element information with the ~~corresponding~~, second GUI element ~~associated with the second application~~ information; and

in response to detecting the user selection of the second window, providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information with the second GUI element information by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first GUI element information and second GUI ~~elements~~ element information.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the ~~[[first]]~~ GUI element comprises a ~~[[first]]~~ menu bar;
the first GUI element information comprises ~~having~~ a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application; ~~[[and]]~~
the second GUI element information comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~
the step of replacing comprises retrieving the second GUI element information ~~options~~ for the ~~second~~ menu bar and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the ~~second~~ menu bar.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein:
the ~~[[first]]~~ GUI element comprises a ~~[[first]]~~ menu bar;
the first GUI element information comprises ~~having~~ a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application; ~~[[and]]~~

the second GUI element information comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~

the step of replacing comprises retrieving the second GUI element information ~~options~~ for the ~~second~~ menu bar and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the ~~second~~ menu bar.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously presented) The computer-readable data storage device of claim 23, wherein;

the ~~[[first]]~~ GUI element comprises a ~~[[first]]~~ menu bar;

the first GUI element information comprises ~~having~~ a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application; ~~[[and]]~~

the second GUI element information comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~

the step of replacing comprises retrieving the second GUI element information ~~options~~ for the ~~second~~ menu bar and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the ~~second~~ menu bar.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~providing a transition~~ transitioning information displayed by a menu bar ~~between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements~~ comprising the steps of:

detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on

the computer's operating system graphical user interface (GUI) ~~[[GUI]]~~ and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

removing ~~[[a]]~~ first menu bar information associated with the first application being displayed by the menu bar in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI ~~from a first menu bar associated with the first application~~ and replacing the first menu bar information with ~~[[a]]~~ second menu bar information associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first menu bar information and the second menu ~~[[bars]]~~ information.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein;

the first menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, ~~[[and]]~~

the second menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~

the step of replacing comprises retrieving the ~~options for the~~ second menu bar information and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the second menu bar information in the menu bar ~~[[space]]~~.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~providing a transition~~ transitioning information displayed by a menu bar ~~between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements~~ comprising the steps of:

means for detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system graphical user interface (GUI) ~~[[GUI]]~~ and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

means for removing ~~[[a]]~~ first menu bar information associated with the first application being displayed by the menu bar in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI ~~from a first menu bar associated with the first application~~ and replacing the first menu bar information with ~~[[a]]~~ second menu bar information associated with the second application; and

means responsive to detecting the change between active applications for providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first menu bar information and the second menu ~~[[bars]]~~ information.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein:

the first menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, ~~[[and]]~~

the second menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~

the step of replacing comprises retrieving the ~~options for the~~ second menu bar information and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the second menu bar information in the menu bar[[space]].

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing a program for ~~providing a transition~~ transitioning information displayed by a menu bar between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements that executes the following steps:

detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system graphical user interface (GUI) [[GUI]] and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

removing [[a]] first menu bar information associated with the first application being displayed by the menu bar in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI ~~from a first menu bar associated with the first application~~ and replacing the first menu bar information with [[a]] second menu bar information associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first menu bar information and the second menu [[bars]] information.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein:
the first menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, [[and]
the second menu bar information includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and ~~wherein~~
the step of replacing comprises retrieving the ~~options for the~~ second menu bar information and displaying the retrieved ~~options~~ information at appropriate locations for the second menu bar information in the menu bar[[space]].

36. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing a transition between [[a]] first graphical user interface (GUI) element information and a ~~corresponding~~ second GUI element information of a GUI element displayed by a GUI element on a display device, wherein:

the first GUI element information is associated with a first application running on a computer,

the second GUI element information is associated with a second application running on the computer,

the first application is displayed on the display device in a first area, said first area being a first window,

the second application is displayed on the display device in a second area, said second area being a second window, and

the GUI element is ~~the first GUI element and the second GUI element~~ are displayed within a third area of the display device,

the method comprising:

detecting, when the first application is active, a user-selection of the second window, said user-selection being received from a data entry device;

making, based on said detection of the user-selection, the second application active;

removing the first GUI element information from the GUI element in the third area of the computer display; and

replacing the first GUI element information removed from the GUI element with the ~~corresponding~~, second GUI element ~~at the third area of the computer display~~ information.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said making the second application active includes bringing the second window to the foreground of the display device.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein replacing the first GUI element information includes providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information with the second GUI element information by rendering on the display device animation graphics of the third area transitioning between the display of the first GUI element information and the second GUI element information.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the GUI element is a menu bar that is separate from each of the first and second windows;

the first GUI element information comprises a first menu bar selections having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, and

the second GUI element information comprises a second menu bar selections having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.